



J. TYLER McCAULEY  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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December 28, 2006

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley   
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – TRINITY YOUTH SERVICES, TRINITY-APPLE VALLEY GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Trinity-Apple Valley Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Trinity Youth Services, Incorporated. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Trinity-Apple Valley Group Home is a forty-four bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 8-15 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Trinity-Apple Valley Group Home was providing services for 30 Los Angeles County Probation children, five Orange County children, four Riverside County children, three San Bernardino County children, and one Tulare County child.

Trinity-Apple Valley Group Home is located in San Bernardino County.

**Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program

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services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

### **Summary of Findings**

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Trinity-Apple Valley Group Home needs to replace the worn and torn carpet in the dayrooms of each unit.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

### **Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:dl

[http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group\\_home.asp](http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp)

### **Attachments**

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS  
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer  
Linda Peck, Administrator, Trinity-Apple Valley  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**Trinity Youth Services  
Trinity-Apple Valley Group Home  
10755 Apple Valley Road  
Apple Valley, California 92308  
Phone: (760) 247-9840  
License Number: 366401747  
Rate Classification Level: 12**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Trinity-Apple Valley Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the dayroom carpet in each unit is worn and torn.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

**Recommendation**

- 1. Trinity Youth Services management replace the dayroom carpet in each unit.**

**II. Program Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Five**

**Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive, and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**III. Educational and Emancipation Services****Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Five**

**Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**IV. Recreation and Activities****Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Five**

**Comments:**

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Comments:**

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**VI. Personal Rights**

**Method of assessment –Interviews with children**

**Sample size: Five**

**Comments:**

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

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Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**VII. Clothing and Allowance**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Five**

**Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

*Empowering Children for Life*

## TRINITY APPLE VALLEY

August 10, 2006

Ms. Candace Rhue, Group Home Audit Supervisor  
Dept. of Auditor-Controller, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 W. Temple St., Room 515-A  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Ms. Rhue,

On 8-7-06, I received a telephone call from Auditor, Don Luther, reporting that this was the deadline for sending in our Corrective Action Plan (CAP) on his June 2006 audit of Trinity-Apple Valley. I told Mr. Luther that, for some reason, we never received it, even though it was reportedly faxed to us by your office over a month ago. He then told me that he would get in touch with you and make certain that we got a copy of your report as soon as possible. We received it on 8-7-06.

Although I was not certain until now if re-carpeting would be required in the dayroom areas of all four units, we did proceed with installation of new carpeting in Unit #2 (it looked the most worn), pending receipt of your final report. The new carpet was installed in Unit #2 on 7-21-06, after the residents returned to school.

Since the only recommendation was in **Section I. Facility and Environment 1. Trinity Youth Services management replace dayroom carpeting in each unit**, we will now proceed to install new carpeting in Units #1, #3 and #4. After forwarding a copy of your report to my supervisor, Gil Quinbar, Exec. Dir. of Residential Services at our Mission Office in Colton Ca., he approved the purchase and installation of new carpets in the remaining dayroom areas. Since you did not specify any deadline for completion in your report, we decided that a reasonable date for completion of the job would be anytime before 9-30-06. Please let me know if, for some reason, this time period does not meet with your approval.


In regard to the possibility of recurrence of any deficiency in this area, we can safely estimate, from past wear, that these new carpets will stay in good shape for at least 4-5 more years. As the Campus Director, I am responsible for making sure that the carpets are installed by Trinity Youth Services Maintenance Dept. as promised and, thereafter, kept clean and in good condition at all times.

10755 Apple Valley Road  
Apple Valley California 92308  
T. (760) 247-9840  
F. (760) 247-9810  
www.trinitycfs.org

I will be sending you written notice when installation is completed. If you wish, I can send photographs of the new carpeting in the four dayroom areas and/or arrange a day and time for someone from your agency to visit the facility to conduct an on-grounds inspection.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or wish additional information regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Linda B. Peck, MA  
Campus Director

cc. Don Luther, L. A. Co. Auditor